

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reexamination and reconsideration of this Application, withdrawal of the rejections, and formal notification of the allowability of all claims as now presented are earnestly solicited in light of the remarks that follow.

Claims 1, 3, 16, and 29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicants reserve the right to re-submit said claims in one or more continuation or divisional applications. Claims 2, 4, 8, 17, 27, and 28 have been amended to be independent claims and incorporate the subject matter of previous claim 1. Claim 30 has been amended to be independent and incorporate the subject matter of previous claim 29. Claim 5 has been amended to depend from claim 4. Claims 6, 7, 10-12, 14, 15, 22, and 24 have been amended to depend from claim 2. Claim 21 has been amended to depend from claim 17. Claims 2, 4-15, 17-28, and 30 are pending.

#### **Claim Rejections**

Claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 14, 16, 22, 23, 26, 35, 40, 41, 44, 45, 47, 53, 54, and 57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,614,268. Applicants respectfully point out that claims 35, 40, 41, 44, 45, 47, 53, 54, and 57 have been previously canceled as being direct to non-elected subject matter. Regarding the remaining rejected claims, although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the alleged anticipation, to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 16, as described above. Moreover, claims 6, 7, 10, 14, and 22 have been amended to depend from a claim noted by the Examiner as reciting allowable subject matter. Claims 23 and 26 are unchanged but ultimately depend from claims cited by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection.

Claims 3, 11-13, 15, and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the '268 patent. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the present rejection, to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 3 and 29. Moreover, claims 11, 12, and 15 have been amended to depend from a claim noted by

the Examiner as reciting allowable subject matter. Claim 13 is unchanged but ultimately depends from a claim cited by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection.

#### Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 17-21, 24, 25, 27, 28, and 30 would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2, 4, 8, 17, 27, 28, and 30 have been so amended. Claim 5 has been amended to depend from now independent claim 4. Claim 9 is unamended but depends from now independent claim 8. Claims 18-21 are unamended but ultimately depend from now independent claim 17. Claim 24 has been amended to depend from now independent claim 2. Claim 25 is unamended but ultimately depends on now independent claim 2.

Claims 6, 7, 10-12, 14, 15, 21, 22, and 24 have been amended, as described above, to depend from claims cited as reciting allowable subject matter. Claims 13, 23, 26, in their original form, depend from claims cited by the Examiner as reciting allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit all pending claims have either been previously cited by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter or depend from a claim cited by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter.

It is believed that all pending claims are now in condition for immediate allowance. It is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions in order to expedite examination of this case.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR §1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

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